



Access World News

**Fire official: Explosion's cause yet to be determined****Clovis News Journal (NM)** - Sunday, March 4, 2012**Author:** *Kevin Wilson, Clovis News Journal, N.M.*

March 04--An explosion rocked the 1100 block of Prince Street in Clovis on Saturday night, leaving three injured in a blast that was heard and felt for numerous city blocks.

Emergency calls were placed a little after 6:30 p.m. Saturday following what Clovis Fire Department personnel called a "high-pressure explosion" at H2O Express, located on the southwest corner of 12th and Prince streets.

"There was some fire involvement," said Mike Nolen, battalion chief on scene. "Our first truck knocked it down quickly."

The injured were taken to Plains Regional Medical Center. One of the three injured was later transported to a Lubbock hospital for treatment of burns.

The conditions of the injured were not known and identities were expected to be released sometime today.

Nolen said he believed two of the injured would likely either be held for observation at PRMC or treated and released. All three victims were standing in the street when the fire department's rescue team, the first on-scene, arrived, Nolen said.

Nolen said the cause of the explosion was yet to be determined and a state fire marshal was enroute from Santa Fe. He said the cause would likely be determined sometime today and didn't dismiss the likelihood of either natural gas or refrigerant used to make ice in the plant.

Nolen said it appeared the blast originated in the back of the plant near refrigerant units. It blew materials an estimated 20 to 25 feet to business offices near the front of the plant.

Emergency crews had utilities shut off just to be safe following the incident.

Neighboring residents didn't see anything, as most were inside during a chilly night. But they all heard it.

"I thought something hit my house," said Brandon Roberts, watching from the sidewalk next to H2O, "and we live over on Ninth and Ross (two blocks south, one block west)."

Jeff Abernathy lives on the same block, and said it shook his bed, while Naomi Villa-Sierra said, "it sounded like somebody came in and slammed our door."

Windows were blown out at the business, and the rear roof was curved up from the blast.

But the neighboring H&H tattoo and piercing parlor didn't appear to have structural damage, though Michael Eschenbauch said the family would probably make some calls Monday to have the foundation checked.

The owners, Greg and Karen Eschenbauch, said some items were knocked off shelves.

"It felt like a dump truck came through our building," Karen Eschenbauch said. "We got lucky today."

**Memo:** ---

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## **Fire official: Explosion's cause yet to be determined**

**Clovis News Journal (NM)** - Tuesday, March 6, 2012

**Author:** Kevin Wilson, Clovis News Journal, N.M.

March 06--An explosion rocked the 1100 block of Prince Street in Clovis on Saturday night, leaving three injured in a blast that was heard and felt for numerous city blocks.

Emergency calls were placed a little after 6:30 p.m. Saturday following what Clovis Fire Department personnel called a "high-pressure explosion" at H2O Express, located on the southwest corner of 12th and Prince streets.

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"It felt like a dump truck came through our building," Karen Eschenbauch said. "We got lucky today."

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## Two injured in explosion recovering

**Clovis News Journal (NM)** - Tuesday, March 6, 2012

**Author:** Tonjia Rolan, Clovis News Journal, N.M.

March 06--Ed Sabia stopped by H2O Express on Saturday to help longtime friend Ken Urban fix a water pump.

Marynell Urban, Ken's mother, stopped by later to invite the two to dinner.

Next thing the three knew, their world was literally turned upside down as a explosion tore through the business at 1120 N. Prince St. about 6:30 p.m. The explosion was heard and felt for several city blocks.

"All of a sudden I was in the air," said Sabia from his home Monday. "The blast threw me 15 feet into a wall and then a light fixture came down on top of me."

Sabia was treated at Plains Regional Medical Center for two wounds to his head, and is now recovering at home.

"I don't really know what happened. Me and Kenny were there about two hours before the explosion. We didn't smell any gas or anything like that. There's nothing there to explode."

Ken Urban was buried under rubble and sustained burns to his hands, forehead and face, Sabia said. Urban was flown to Lubbock for treatment, according to the police report.

"I just talked to Marynell," Sabia said. "Kenny is alert and doing real good. He's getting skin grafts today." According to Sabia, Urban's most severe burns were to his hands.

Other than singed hair, Marynell Urban was uninjured in the blast, according to Sabia.

"The good Lord wanted us around a little bit longer," Sabia said. "We could have all been fatalities."

Adjacent buildings did not sustain any damage, from the observations of those owners, but the front of H2O Express was lined with glass from windows blown out and the top roof had curved upward from the force of the blast.

Clovis battalion chief Mike Nolen said Saturday at the scene it appeared the blast originated in the back of the plant near refrigerant units. It blew materials an estimated 20 to 25 feet to business offices near the front of the plant.

H2O Express sells and distributes reverse osmosis water and bagged ice to the public and grocery and convenience stores in Clovis.

Fire Marshal Allan Silvers said Monday an investigation into the cause of the explosion is ongoing and could last a week.

Pat Lawson felt the explosion eight blocks away at his house on the 400 block of Sheldon Street.

"It felt like a tree hit the house," Lawson said.

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## Two injured in explosion recovering

**Clovis News Journal (NM)** - Wednesday, March 7, 2012

**Author:** *Tonjia Rolan, Clovis News Journal, N.M.*

March 07--Ed Sabia stopped by H2O Express on Saturday to help longtime friend Ken Urban fix a water pump.

Marynell Urban, Ken's mother, stopped by later to invite the two to dinner.

Next thing the three knew, their world was literally turned upside down as a explosion tore through the business at 1120 N. Prince St. about 6:30 p.m. The explosion was heard and felt for several city blocks.

"All of a sudden I was in the air," said Sabia from his home Monday. "The blast threw me 15 feet into a wall and then a light fixture came down on top of me."

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"I just talked to Marynell," Sabia said. "Kenny is alert and doing real good. He's getting skin grafts today." According to Sabia, Urban's most severe burns were to his hands.

Other than singed hair, Marynell Urban was uninjured in the blast, according to Sabia.

"The good Lord wanted us around a little bit longer," Sabia said. "We could have all been fatalities."

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